

**PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL, YOUTH
AND SPORTS COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
FOR THE YEARS 2016-2019**

The Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as 'the Sides'), guided by their desire to strengthen their friendly relations and to promote exchanges in the spheres of culture, education and science, based on the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the State of Israel in the Fields of Education, Culture and Science signed in Jerusalem on 27 February, 1994, have agreed on the following Program of Cooperation for the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Both Sides are convinced that this cooperation will contribute to the development of their relations and to raising awareness, particularly among youth, of the history and culture of the people of both countries and agree to promote cooperation in order to improve and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

1. EDUCATION

1.1. The Sides will promote exchange of information and constructive contacts between the two countries, in various aspects of education.

1.2. The Sides will encourage the development of cooperation between both countries' education institutions at all levels.

1.3. The Sides will within the limits of budget, promote the exchanges of information, experience, documentation and experts in the following areas:

- The education system of both countries
- Initial and in-service teacher training
- Education for developing creativity and innovation
- School organization and management
- Education regulations
- Special needs education
- Decentralization and school autonomy
- Civic education

- Gifted children education
- Intercultural dialogue
- Anti-drug programs (including joint projects)
- Foreign language teaching
- Formal and non-formal education
- Collaborative learning (i.e. Literature, cinema and more)
- Inclusive education
- Culture and Heritage
- Adult education
- Science and technology education
- Youth contribution to the community
- Development of life skills
- Arts education
- Assessment and examinations
- Democracy, human rights and equal opportunities.

1.4. The Sides will encourage cooperation between schools on various projects based on Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

1.5 The Sides agree to cooperate in the field of e-learning, including design, development, and implementation of software, hardware and professional practice such as: digital books, learning management software, long distance learning environments, teacher training, etc.

In Israel, information on the education system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education: www.education.gov.il

In Latvia information on the education system can be obtained from the website of the Ministry of Education and Science: www.izm.gov.lv

1.6. The Sides are committed to preventing the publication of text books which encourage racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia, in order to counter prejudice and negative stereotypes. Each Side will bring to the attention of the other if such publications are detected.

1.7. The Sides will promote cooperation regarding Holocaust research and documentation between their State/ National Archives and research institutions and libraries through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, microfilms, books, digital information, document copies, databases and regulations. These exchanges as well as obtaining the copies of the archival documents will take place in accordance with the legislation of and will be subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

1.8. The Sides stress the importance of enabling young people to learn about the Holocaust during their schooling, with reference to the annual observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day in Latvia on July 4 as well as to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7, of November 1st 2005, designating 27 January as an annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, which emphasizes the unique historical character of the Holocaust and denounces the still lingering dangers of genocide, racism, antisemitism, and

xenophobia. In this context, the Sides will support educational activities undertaken at schools of all levels to promote Holocaust commemoration and education, and to combat racism and anti-Semitism.

1.9. The Sides will encourage participation of teachers and particularly, history social science teachers, in seminars focusing on Holocaust education and antisemitism conducted by the European Department of the International School for Holocaust Studies of Yad Vashem. Both sides acknowledge with satisfaction the fruitful cooperation between the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science and Yad Vashem since 2010 on an annual basis. Seminars at Yad Vashem are officially accredited by the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science as outlined in the letter of the Acting State Secretary of the Ministry, dated April 1, 2015. Teachers will receive certificates confirming the training attendance from both Sides

1.10. The Sides will act to promote the teaching of the language, literature, history and culture of the other country at their respective primary, secondary and higher education institutions. For this purpose, the corresponding experts from the partner country will be invited to deliver lectures, hold seminars and conduct other educational activities. The conditions under which the experts will perform their respective activities in the receiving country will be negotiated between the respective institutions of both countries or through diplomatic channels.

2. SCHOLARSHIPS

2.1. The Israeli Side will offer two (2) annual Modern Hebrew summer language course and two (2) specialization scholarships for one (1) academic year (eight months) for Latvian post-graduate or research students who wish to undertake studies in an Israeli university.

Information for applicants (closing date for submitting applications, age limit, necessary documents, application forms, details on grant benefits etc.) will be available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel: <http://www.mfa.gov.il> and will be published annually through diplomatic channels.

2.2. The Latvian Side will offer scholarships to students and researchers for studies and research work, as well as for participation in summer schools organized by Latvian higher education institutions. Information about the offered scholarships, application procedures and deadlines will be available on the web page of the Ministry of Education and Science: www.izm.gov.lv and the State Education Development Agency: www.viaa.gov.lv.

2.3. These scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

3. COOPERATION BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

3.1. The Sides will promote the exchange of publications, literature, research materials and other information in the field of higher education.

3.2. The Sides will enable participation of three (3) academics each in national and international conferences/seminars and other similar events to be held in both countries for a period of up to five (5) days each, while this Program is in force.

3.3. The Sides will cooperate in the promotion of studies in any field of mutual interest, especially those relating to the cultures, languages and modern history of each other's country in the respective higher education institutions.

4. SCIENCE

4.1. The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between scientific and research institutions. The content of this cooperation will be agreed upon by the competent institutions of both countries.

4.2. The Sides will encourage mutual exchange of scientific and research staff with the objective of research, studies, consultations and discussions in scientific disciplines. The terms and conditions of such exchanges will be agreed upon by the relevant institutions and/or through diplomatic channels, as appropriate.

4.3. The Sides will encourage joint scientific and technological research, research and development projects in areas of mutual interest, as well as the exchange of scientific and technical information and publications.

4.4. The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between higher education institutions, academies of sciences, and other scientific research institutions.

4.5. The Sides will explore possibilities to conclude a bilateral cooperation programme for mutual support of joint research projects. The Sides will agree on priority areas of co-operation and financial provisions within the available financial framework of the Sides.

5. EXCHANGE OF CULTURE AND ART EXPERTS

General review

The Sides welcome the high level of reciprocal cultural activities, noting the valuable role played by cultural ties between the two countries. The Sides reaffirm their intentions to continue to encourage direct cooperation between cultural institutions, organizations and individuals in both countries.

The Sides will encourage initiatives designed to assist public and private organizations and individuals engaged in promoting and sponsoring cultural activities of Latvian origin in Israel and cultural activities of Israeli origin in Latvia.

5.1. The Sides will support the exchange of music, theatre, visual and plastic arts, design and architecture, dance and all other artistic groups or individuals participating in tours, festivals and other cultural events, including conferences, symposia, mutual performances, workshops, artistic exposures and meetings involving the exchange of information and experiences. In addition, the Sides will encourage visits of art critics, science writers and journalists dealing with culture, with the aim of promoting a better understanding of the sociological and cultural developments taking place in the other country.

5.2. Performing arts festivals:

The Sides will encourage the exchange of experts and artists for performances and participation in their festivals of the performing arts. The details relating to these exchanges, such as the number of artists and length of stays, will be based on principles of reciprocity, and will be agreed upon by the Sides and/or relevant institutions, as appropriate.

The Sides will inform one another in advance through diplomatic channels about major international festivals to be held in their respective countries, in order to facilitate such participation. Information will also be published on the websites of the respective competent authorities and institutions.

5.3. Plastic arts, photography and design:

The Sides will cooperate in the field of fine arts, design and handicraft fairs. They will encourage the exchange of exhibitions and cooperation between artists, art experts, folk craftsmen and specialists in traditional folk works.

5.4. Architecture:

The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between architects, architectural institutions and the exchange of architects, as well as information sharing and the promotion of exhibitions.

5.5. Museums and exhibitions:

The Sides will encourage direct contacts between museums, galleries and similar institutions in both countries, including exchanges of specialists, curators, materials, special exhibits and information.

The Sides will encourage the exchange of contemporary art exhibitions including works of art from museums, official and alternative exhibition spaces, private galleries, artist training schools and galleries, and the realization of joint contemporary arts projects.

5.6. Music:

The Sides will encourage the presentation of the work of their composers in the other country. They will also support direct contacts between musicians (conductors, soloists, etc.), music organizations, institutions, associations, orchestras and conservatories in the areas of classical and contemporary music, including the exchange of recordings and personal visits on a commercial and non commercial basis.

The Sides will strive to facilitate the participation of their musicians as well as jurors and observers in major festivals, competitions and events organized in both countries.

5.7. Dance:

The Sides will encourage the exchange of dancers, choreographers, dance experts, teachers and producers of dance festivals. The Sides will also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

5.8. Theatre:

The Sides will encourage the exchange of actors, directors, playwrights, critics etc. The Sides will also jointly participate in developing multilateral cultural cooperation.

5.9 The Sides will enable annual visits of experts/artists/producers/curators in the above mentioned various fields of arts, for a total period of not exceeding five (5) days each year. Projects will be agreed upon by the Sides through diplomatic channels.

6. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

6.1. The Sides will encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage, exchanging on the request of the other Side information about the applicable national laws and regulations. In addition they will encourage activities aimed at preserving sites of mutual interest.

6.2. The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between institutions in the field of the protection of cultural heritage. They will also exchange professionals, academic experts, information and publicity material as well as information on seminars.

6.3. The Sides will encourage cooperation between relevant authorities and institutions with a view of preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with international laws and their applicable national laws and regulations.

6.4. The Sides will encourage cooperation in the field of urban conservation and architecture research. Details of this cooperation will be agreed upon by the competent authorities of both Sides.

6.5. During the course of this Program, the Sides will exchange one (1) expert each year from the fields of archaeology, preservation of antiquities, restoration of cultural heritage or conservation of monuments and architecture, for a period of up to four (4) days. Details in this regard will be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Latvian State Inspection for Heritage Protection.

7. LITERATURE AND BOOK FAIRS

7.1. The Sides will work jointly to promote the translation of contemporary prose, poetry and other literary works of their country into the languages of the other Side. The Sides will also encourage the distribution of these translated works.

For this purpose the Sides will annually exchange three (3) persons (writers, poets or translators) each for a stay of up to five (5) days, while this Program is in force.

7.2. The Sides will encourage writers and editors to participate in seminars, workshops and poetry readings aimed at promoting greater understanding between the two literary communities. The Sides will support participation of poets and writers in festivals and literary events for up to five (5) days annually.

7.3. The Latvian Side, during the course of this Program, will invite through the International Writer and Translator House in Ventspils three (3) persons (writers, poets and translators) for a stay of up to thirty (30) days at the International Writers and Translators House in Ventspils (www.ventspilshouse.lv) setting as a priority the translation of the Latvian literature. The International Writers and Translators House in Ventspils will cover the expenses of accommodation and a monthly allowance (scholarship) in the amount of EUR 280.

7.4. The Sides will encourage direct contacts between book publishers and national libraries.

7.5. Each Side will extend invitations to the other for participation in their respective International Book fairs on a commercial basis and non commercial basis, while this Program is in effect.

The Israeli Side invites the Latvian Side to participate in the Jerusalem International Book Fair that takes place every two years in Jerusalem.
www.jerusalembookfair.com

The Latvian Side invites the Israeli Side to participate in the Baltic Book Fair in Riga in 2017.

8. CINEMA and AUDIO-VISUAL

8.1. The Sides will encourage the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals. The Sides will promote special cinema retrospectives of the other country as part of international film festivals being held in their country. Information regarding major film festivals will be exchanged through diplomatic channels.

8.2. The Sides will encourage holding film weeks of the other Side's country in their own country. Films that are screened in this framework will have English subtitles, if the language of the film is not English.

8.3. Each Side will encourage mutual visits of an expert or public figure in the field of cinema. For this purpose the Sides will exchange annually two (2) experts each in the fields of cinema and audiovisual for a period of up to five (5) days to participate in festivals, conferences, reviews, meetings, retrospectives and other prestigious international events.

8.4. The Sides will encourage cooperation between cinema and television experts as well as film and television institutes.

The Sides welcome the direct cooperation between the Film and Television Schools as well as between their national cinematheques and the exchange of students and teachers in this field.

8.5. The Sides express their interest in promoting co-productions between Israeli and Latvian film producers. The Sides will discuss and conclude a co-production (of films and video) agreement, with the aim to facilitate future film co-productions.

8.6. The Sides will encourage cooperation between the television authorities in the two countries, as well as the exchange of materials (feature and documentary) and experts in this area, on a commercial and non-commercial basis. In addition, the Sides will encourage holding workshops on the topic of educational television, staff training and background material aimed at enhancing each country's knowledge and understanding of the other country.

9. ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

9.1. The Sides will promote reciprocal cooperation between the archive departments of state and public institutions and libraries, in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations, through exchanges of experts, scientific publications, microfilms, books, digital information, document copies, databases and regulations. The exchanges will take place in accordance with the national laws and regulations of each country and will be subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

9.2. The Sides will consider the exchange of one (1) archivist or librarian for up to five (5) days during period of this Program in order to acquire information on the organization of the respective archives / libraries as well as study and research missions.

10. COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Sides will cooperate in the field of education, science, culture, sports, youth and communications in the framework of UNESCO and other international organizations, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, with the purpose of exchanging information and the implementation of common programs of action.

11. YOUTH EXCHANGE

11.1. The Sides agree that the exchange of youth and young adults constitute a major contribution to the relations between the two countries. They will therefore support such programs.

Emphasis will be placed on the active participation of young people in the community and the promotion of youth cooperation and networking through the specific youth activities.

11.2. The Sides will encourage mutual projects of professionals and experts in the field of youth. Details in this regard will be determined between the Israel Youth Exchange Authority and the Agency for International Programs for Youth in Latvia.

12. SPORTS

The Sides will encourage cooperation in sports, mainly by exchanging of sports teams, trainers and experts in diverse disciplines. Details will be worked out through mutual consultations between interested organizations of both countries. The terms and conditions of these exchanges will be agreed upon between interested organizations of both countries.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

13.1. Each Side will ensure legal means for the protection of intellectual property rights of all materials obtained in the framework of this Program, in accordance with the national laws and regulations in force in its country.

13.2. Intellectual property rights acquired or created as a result of joint activity in accordance with this Program will be allocated by mutually agreed conditions set out in separate agreements prior to commencing the joint activity.

13.3. No Side will transmit any commercially valuable confidential information obtained in pursuance of this Program to any third Side without prior written consent of the Side from which such information originated.

14. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

14.1. Financial and other provisions, as well as the schedules of the events, will be agreed upon by mutual consultations between the relevant authorities of both countries. Failing any special agreements, the financial provisions will be adjusted on the basis of reciprocity, namely:

- The sending Side will cover the international travel expenses of their delegations, and will ensure the covering of special equipment.
- The receiving Side will cover the costs of accommodation in its country, and ensure the covering of transportation and other expenses within its country.

14.2. Exchange of individuals (artists, experts etc.): The exchange will be regulated as follows:

- Each Side will send to the other Side data (curriculum vitae, objectives of the visit, languages spoken, proposed itinerary and scheduled arrival and departure dates) in English, at least sixty (60) days prior to the expected date of visit of the delegation or individuals.
- The receiving Side will confirm the acceptance of the proposal within thirty (30) days, or as soon as it is possible.
- Invited persons or delegations should be able to communicate in either the language of the receiving country or institution, or English or any other language mutually agreed upon.
- Each individual and delegation will be responsible for their own medical insurance.

14.3. Scholarships:

The terms and conditions of the specialization scholarships granted by the Israeli Side for one academic year will be published yearly through governmental and diplomatic channels as well as on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel: <http://www.mfa.gov.il>

The Israeli Side will provide participants in the Summer Course of the ULPAN Language School / beneficiaries of the scholarships accepted within this Program, with the following:

- a. free tuition;
- b. allowance to cover the living expenses in accordance with the conditions of the language school / academic institutions;
- c. health insurance, with the exception of dental care and chronic diseases.

The terms and conditions of the scholarships granted by the Latvian Side will be published yearly on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science: (www.izm.gov.lv) and the State Education Development Agency (www.viaa.gov.lv).

The Latvian Side will provide Israeli students who are the beneficiaries of academic scholarships in accordance with this Program, with the following:

- a. for students a monthly scholarship to cover living costs, tuition fee for study programmes, if necessary, and accommodation;
- b. for researchers a scholarship as per national regulations to cover living expenses and accommodation;
- c. for participants of international summer schools tuition fee for the international summer school (includes registration, accommodation, living and local transportation expenses in accordance with the international summer school programme).

14.4 Exchange of exhibitions: The financial provisions for each project will be separately agreed upon between the Sides.

15. FINAL PROVISIONS

15.1. This Program does not exclude the realization of other exchanges in the cultural, scientific, education, youth and sports fields.

15.2. The Sides agree that all initiatives mentioned in this Program will be carried out within the limits of the funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.

15.3. All activities and exchanges realized in accordance with this Program will be implemented in accordance with the national laws and regulations of each country.

15.4. All differences that might arise in the course of this Program will be settled through consultations and negotiations between the Sides.

15.5. The Sides entrust their competent authorities with the implementation of this Program.

15.6. This Program can be amended or modified by mutual consent of the Sides. The amendments or modifications will be made in writing.

15.7. This Program will come into effect on the date of its signature and will remain in effect until 31 December, 2019.

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will take place in Riga at the end of the year 2019.

In case the meeting of the Joint Committee will not take place at that time the current Program will be in effect until a new Program will be agreed upon.

Signed in Jerusalem on 14 of June, 2016, which corresponds to the 8 day of Sivan, 5776, in duplicate in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.



For the Government
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